Testing of spurious drugs

69. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) as a part of its exercise to curb spurious drugs, whether it is a fact that his Ministry has proposed to test around 3,00,000 samples of drugs used to treat cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, cancer, etc. in the next three months;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how the above exercise would help in overcoming spurious drug manufacturing and maintain the ethics of drug manufacturing practices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The procedures and modalities would be decided in consultation with Experts.

(c) Such an exercise should help in assessing the extent of spurious drugs in the country as well as their geographical distribution and the brands which are being extensively duplicated for formulating a focused policy and strategy for ensuring availability of safe and quality drugs in the country.

Assistance to improve the economy of potters in Orissa

70. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that terracotta products of Orissa are in great demand in European markets;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the action plan of Centre to help small scale sector of Orissa, to provide modern training to the potters, living in abject poverty, with a view to improve their economy?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The Government (in the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) has no data to establish that terracotta products of Orissa are in great demand in European markets. However, handicraft products (handled by the Development Commissioner of Handicrafts, Ministry of Textiles) are understood to be in good demand in the European market and the European market constituted 37% of total handicraft exports during 2006-07.

(c) The Government (in the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) has been implementing *inter-alia* the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) for assisting the entrepreneurs in establishing village industries including terracotta (Pottery) units, in rural areas and small towns with population upto 20,000 by availing of margin money assistance from KVIC and loans from public sector scheduled commercial banks, selected regional rural banks, cooperative banks, etc., for projects with a maximum cost of Rs. 25 lakh. Three terracotta units are working in Orissa under the purview of KVIC. KVIC has planned to provide training to the artisans under the skill upgradation training programme during 2007-08 and also to distribute tool kits to the trainees. Poor potters of Orissa can also avail themselves of the training provided by KVIC. Office of Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), Ministry of Textiles has made provisions in the Eleventh Plan Scheme of its Human Resource Development to provide modern training to handicraft artisans, including potters of Orissa, with a view to improving the socio economic conditions of the artisans.